

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 are independent.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,108,318 issued to Sakurai, *et al.* ("Sakurai") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,389,013 issued to Kourimsky, *et al.* ("Kourimsky"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites:

“wherein the body portion is *a single unit* and divided into a plurality of *integral portions* comprising:
 a joint portion for fixing the body portion to the power supply line;
 a head portion having a hanging jaw engaged with the hanging projection of the housing; and
 a connection portion formed with an inclination that is negatively inclined along its insertion direction and faces with the inner bottom surface of the housing, the head portion thereby connected with the joint portion”

Thus, in claim 1, the body portion is a single unit, not a combination of two or more independent units. Also the join portion, the head portion and the connection portions are integral portions of the body portion. An example of these claimed features is shown in FIG. 8A of the

present application, which shows the hot connector terminal 266 that is a single unit divided into three integral portions, the joint portion 267a, the connection portion 267b and the head portion 267c.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that, in Sakurai, the female terminal member 20 corresponds to the claimed body portion. As shown in FIG. 4, the female terminal member 20 is inserted into the protective sleeve 30 which is an independent unit separated from the female terminal member 20. As shown in FIG. 3, the combination of the female terminal member 20 and the protective sleeve 30 constitutes the female terminal 15, and, as shown in FIG. 4, the female terminal 15 is combined with the housing 42.

When the female terminal 15 is assembled with the housing 42, it is the protective sleeve 30 that has the step portion 33 to be engaged with the stopper arm 40 protruded from the housing 42. It is the protective sleeve 30 that prevents the female terminal 15 from being deviated. The female terminal member 20 is combined with the protective sleeve 30, but none of its integral portions has an engagement mechanism that is engaged with the stopper arm 40 for preventing the female terminal 15 from being deviated. The female terminal member 20 does not have an integral portion that has an engagement element corresponding to the counterpart engagement element of the housing 42.

Thus, it is submitted that Sakurai fails to disclose the claimed body portion that is a single unit (not a combination of two separate units) and comprising an integral portion “having a hanging jaw engaged with the hanging projection of the housing, for preventing the body portion from being deviated”. Also, the present invention is advantageous over Sakurai since only single body portion, not two or more separated parts, is required for preventing the body portion from being deviated.

Kourimsky discloses an electric terminal 2, which is a male terminal member inserted into its counter part, such as the female terminal member 20 of Sakurai though two flexible contacts 25a. As shown in FIG. 3, the electric terminal 2 has locking lances 12 which are engaged with shoulders 38 of the electrically connector house 32.

However, the electrical terminal 2 is for receiving power supplied from the power line connected to the wire connection section 9 and supplying the power to a female terminal member to which the electrical terminal 2 is inserted. Thus, the electrical terminal 2 is not for “providing power supply line with a power supplied through the other side opening of the through hole”. Also, the electrical terminal 2 does not have integral portions corresponding to the claimed connection portion that is negatively inclined along its insertion direction, as claimed.

Since none of the applied references discloses the claimed body portion, the claimed invention would not have been obviously derivable by simply combining them. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Sakurai and Kourimsky. Claim 2 which is dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1 and 2 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U. S. Patent No. 5,921,819 issued to Lee in view of Kourimsky and Sakurai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 3 recites:

“wherein the connector comprises:
a housing having a through hole and a hanging projection
formed at an inner bottom surface of the through hole; and

a body portion inserted into the through hole from one side opening of the through hole, *for providing the power supplying line with the external power through the power supply line*, and wherein the body portion is **a single unit** and divided into a **plurality of integral portions** comprising:
a joint portion for fixing the body portion to the power supply line;
a head portion having a hanging jaw engaged with the hanging projection of the housing; and
a connection portion formed with an inclination that is negatively inclined along its insertion direction and faces with the inner bottom surface of the housing, the head portion thereby connected with the joint portion.”

Amended independent claim 5 recites:

“wherein the connector comprises:
a housing having a through hole and a hanging projection formed at an inner bottom surface of the through hole; and
a body portion inserted into the through hole from one side opening of the through hole, *for providing the power supply line*, wherein the body portion is **a single unit and divided into a plurality of integral portions** comprising:
a joint portion for fixing the body portion to the power supply line;
a head portion having a hanging jaw engaged with the hanging projection of the housing; and
a connection portion for connecting the head portion with the joint portion”

As previously mentioned, Kourimsky and Sakurai do not disclose the claimed body portion. Lee is directed to a backlight assembly having a replaceable tube but fails to cure the deficiency from the teachings of Kourimsky and Sakurai. Particularly, Kourimsky fails to disclose the claimed body portion. Thus, the invention defined in claims 3 and 5 would not have been obvious over Lee, Kourimsky and Sakurai, and, hence, it is submitted that claims 3-7 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 3-7 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 8-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,533,428 issued to Ogo, et al. (“Ogo”) in view of Lee, Kourimsky and Sakurai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 8 recites:

“wherein the connector comprises:
a housing having a through hole and a hanging projection
formed at an inner bottom surface of the through hole; and
a body portion inserted into the through hole from one side
opening of the through hole, *for providing the external power to
the lamp through the power supply line*, and
*wherein the body portion is a single unit and divided into a
plurality of integral portions comprising:*
a joint portion for fixing the body portion to the
power supply line;
a head portion having a hanging jaw engaged with
the hanging projection of the housing; and
a connection portion formed with an inclination that
is negatively inclined along its insertion direction and faces
the inner bottom surface of the housing, the head portion
thereby connected with the joint portion”

Amended independent claim 10 recites:

“wherein the connector comprises:
a housing having a through hole and a hanging projection
formed at an inner bottom surface of the through hole; and
a body portion inserted into the through hole from one side
opening of the through hole, for providing the lamp with external
power through the power supply line, *wherein the body portion is a
single unit and divided into a plurality of integral portions
comprising:*
a joint portion for fixing the body portion to the
power supply line;
a head portion having a hanging jaw engaged with
the hanging projection of the housing; and
a connection portion for connecting the head
portion with the joint portion and the joint portion”

As previously mentioned, Lee, Kourimsky and Sakurai do not disclose the claimed body portion. Ogo is directed to a light guide plate including an inclined flat surface portion where a thickness of the light guide plate decreases linearly from a lamp. However, Ogo does not cure the deficiency from Lee, Kourimsky and Sakurai. Particularly, Ogo does not teach the claimed body portion recited in claims 8 and 10. Thus, the invention defined in claims 8 and 10 would not have been obvious over Lee, Kourimsky and Sakurai, and, hence, it is submitted that claims 8-12 are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 8-12 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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